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SPRING WATERFOWL MIGRATION IN THE RUTHVEN AREA OF IOWA: COMPARATIVE DATA FOR 1934, 1938, AND 1942 *

By MAURICE W. PROVOST

I. INTRODUCTION

The 1942 Spring migration of waterfowl through the Ruthven Area of Iowa (Clay and Palo Alto County lake region) was closely watched during a stay in the area from March 26 to June 16. Information on waterfowl movements prior to March 26 was gathered from conversation with the local Conservation Officer, Bernard I. Severson, and from other interested sportsmen. Data were gathered and are herewith presented on 24 species of waterfowl: 1 of swan, 4 of geese, 9 of puddle ducks, 7 of diving ducks, and 3 of fish ducks. The presentation of merely 1942 migration data would not in itself be of much value. But fortunately, all this information can be compared with analagous data for the year 1938, as collected and published by Jessop B. Low, and for the year 1934, as gathered and published by Logan J. Bennett. Thus we have Spring migratory data on waterfowl in the same area at four-year intervals—1934, 1938, and 1942. The resulting comparisons throw substantial light on the trend of waterfowl numbers migrating up the great Mississippi flyway in recent years.

Reference throughout the reading of this paper should be made to the Table appended.

II. WATERFOWL NUMBERS

In the matter of gross numbers of each species passing through the area, the Table is self-explanatory. The ensuing remarks on the 1942 migration are arranged in accordance with their relation to 1934 and 1938 observations.

1. *Species Unchanged (8):*

BLUE GOOSE: Although fewer Blue Geese were counted in the area in 1942 than in either 1934 or 1938, it is doubtful if the change is significant in a species with such restricted and distinct migration pathways. Evidence from other parts of the Mississippi and Missouri River valleys indicates an increase in the continental numbers of the species.

MALLARD: In a species as abundant and dispersed in migration as the common Mallard and as difficult to accurately census, the three figures of 400, 250, and 280 thousand for 1934, 1938, and 1942, respectively, cannot be safely interpreted.

BLACK DUCK: Though unobserved in 1938, the Black Duck was equally numerous (100) in 1934 and 1942.

PINTAIL: The above remarks on the Mallard apply with even more force to this species.

SHOVELLER: The figures 15, 25, and 15 thousand for 1934, 1938, and 1942 indicate no change in numbers.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Again, figures like 8, 10, and 8½ thousand for 1934, 1938, and 1942 indicate no change in numbers.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE: Figures 300, 30, and 300 indicate a decided drop in 1938, but no overall change in numbers.

HOODED MERGANSER: Figures like 40, 35, and 50 cannot safely be analyzed for trend.

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2. *Species increased (12):*

The following species have shown a definite increase in numbers through the eight-year period 1934-1942:

Canada Goose	Green-winged Teal	Lesser Scaup
White-fronted Goose	Wood Duck	Bufflehead
Baldpate	Redhead	American Merganser
Blue-winged Teal	Canvasback	Red-breasted Merganser

All but the four species discussed below have increased steadily and uniformly through the eight years.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The 13-fold increase in numbers from 1938 to 1942, while possibly attributable in part to a change in migratory route, does nevertheless point to an undoubted increase in this once decimated species of goose.

WOOD DUCK: Throughout the period under discussion the beautiful Wood Duck has, under protection, increased phenomenally in numbers on the continent. The 50 birds counted in the area in 1942, when none was seen in 1934 and 1938, reflect a pronounced reappearance of the species in the area.

CANVASBACK: Under semi-protection, this fine duck has shown an admirable continental increase in numbers during the late thirties and early forties. This was reflected in the Ruthven Area by a 24-fold increase from 1938 to 1942.

LESSER SCAUP: Of the nyrocine ducks this Scaup has shown everywhere an increase in numbers in recent years. In the Ruthven Area the increase was 2-fold from 1934 to 1938, and 6-fold from 1938 to 1942.

3. *Species decreased (3):*

It is a happy fact that of the 24 species of waterfowl migrating through the Ruthven Area, only three have decreased in numbers from 1934 to 1942.

LESSER SNOW GOOSE: For the three years censused, the numbers of Snow Geese dropped from 20 to 15 to 4 thousand. This is an undoubted local decrease in numbers, although its relation to the continental population of the species is questionable.

GADWALL: This is the only puddle duck which has decreased in migratory numbers in the Ruthven Area over the eight-year period. The drop was of the order—10 to 8 to 2½ thousand. Few waterfowl species have suffered severer reduction in continental breeding range. As a result the Gadwall has reacted very little to protective modifications in hunting regulations.

RUDDY DUCK: Ruddy Duck numbers in the area increased twofold from 1934 to 1938, but then dropped from 1000 in 1938 to 300 in 1942. This latter decrease was evidenced in both migratory and breeding numbers.

4. *Group Changes:*

GEESE: Following almost a doubling in numbers from 1934 to 1938, total numbers of geese passing through the area were halved from 1938 to 1942. Migratory movements in geese being what they are, this cannot be significantly related to the continental trend.

PUDDLE DUCKS: The Table shows a steady drop in total numbers of puddle ducks over the eight-year period. However, if the Mallard and Pintail figures are omitted (because they are open to some question), a true picture of the trend in puddle ducks is the result. The slight increase then becomes of the order 61 to 83 to 75 thousand.

DIVING DUCKS: The Table summaries indicate an undoubted increase in diving duck numbers passing through the area. This increase was about 2-fold from 1934 to 1938, and 5-fold from 1938 to 1942. Excluding the Lesser Scaup, which made phenomenal progress, the increase in diving ducks is still of the order 10 to 15 to 26 thousand.

FISH DUCKS: Mergansers are too infrequent in the area to judge any definite trend in numbers. If there has been any change, however, it was most likely upwards.

5. *Total Change:*

The Table's figures on total waterfowl numbers are somewhat obscured by the none-too-accurate Mallard and Pintail figures. Omitting these, a true picture of a steady and uniform increase over the eight-year period results:

1934	146,650	
1938	220,636	or 50% increase (4 yrs.)
1942	369,860	or 72% increase (4 yrs.)

The top six species in numbers for the three years were:

1934	1938	1942
1. Pintail	Pintail	Pintail
2. Mallard	Mallard	Mallard
3. Blue Goose	Blue Goose	Lesser Scaup
4. Lesser Scaup	Lesser Scaup	Blue-winged Teal
5. Blue-winged Teal	Blue-winged Teal	Blue Goose
6. Lesser Snow Goose	Shoveller	Shoveller

III. MIGRATION DATES

Compared with 1934 and 1938, the 1942 migration of waterfowl through the Ruthven Area was normal to somewhat early. Three species—Mallard, Pintail and Lesser Scaup—were earlier than average. Being the most abundant forms, the entire migration as a consequence appeared earlier than it actually was. All four species of Geese came early; the Lesser Snow Goose was especially early in comparison with 1934 and 1938. The Blue-winged Teal flight reached a peak rather later than usual (April 27); a spell of inclement weather in mid-April probably retarded their northward progress. The two latest arrivals were the Red-breasted Merganser (May 2) and the Wood Duck (May 15); both are customarily late, however.

In the case of six species, the migratory flight came in two pronounced waves. These two peaks came as follows:

Mallard	March 21 and March 30
Pintail	March 21 and March 30
Lesser Scaup	March 22 and April 7
Ring-necked Duck	March 23 and April 7
Baldpate	March 29 and April 25
Redhead	April 1 and April 11

The second wave was larger than the first in the Mallard and Ring-necked Duck. The first was larger in the Pintail and Baldpate. In the Lesser Scaup and Redhead, the two peaks were of similar size.

IV. LATE RECORDS AND POSSIBLE NESTINGS

In the eight-year period (1934-1942) under discussion, nine species of waterfowl have been demonstrated to be nesting in the Ruthven Area, all others are as yet considered migrants only. The nine nesters are:

Mallard	Redhead
Gadwall	Canvasback
Pintail	Lesser Scaup
Blue-winged Teal	Ruddy Duck
Shoveller	

The following notes are intended to show that large as this variety of nesting species is, there is yet a possibility that it may be doubled eventually:

CANADA GOOSE: One bird was put up from the North shore of Trumbull Lake on May 29, 1942—long after all other Canada Geese had left the area. Old timers speak of geese nesting in Barringer's Slough. At one time this Goose nested as far south as Arkansas. The species could be nesting in the area.

BLACK DUCK: As late as May 19, 1942, three Black Ducks were seen on Barringer's Slough. The species has bred in northwestern Iowa in the past, and may still be doing so.

BALDPATE: Two Baldpate drakes were seen on Barringer's Slough on June 9, 1942. In 1938, Mr. Low recorded the species on June 4. Baldpates once nested as far southeastward as mid-eastern South Dakota. It would not be impossible for this duck to be nesting in the Ruthven Area of Iowa.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Mr. Low observed this teal in the Ruthven Area on May 28, 1938. In 1942 it was not observed after April 29. However, the species has nested in Iowa in the past, and should be looked for in the Ruthven Area to do so again.

WOOD DUCK: This handsome duck nests in every State in the Union, and uniquely so. Although no nest has been found in the area in recent years, adults have summered about the Round Lake-Trumbull Lake region the past few years. In 1942 a drake was seen on the south-west bay of Trumbull Lake on June 3. Nesting boxes should be erected on Round Lake to induce nesting if it does not already occur.

RING-NECKED DUCK: A drake was seen on Westergaard's Slough on May 20, 1942. In 1938 Mr. Low recorded the species on May 12. The species once nested throughout northern Iowa. Of late years it has been pushing its continental breeding range southward and eastward. Possible nesting in the Ruthven Area could be a phase of this movement.

BUFFLEHEAD: Mr. Low has observed the Bufflehead in the Ruthven Area on May 6, 1940, and on May 9 in 1938. The species formerly nested in Iowa, and might again do so in the Ruthven Area.

AMERICAN MERGANSER: A female American Merganser was seen loitering about one of the ponds of Dewey Pasture on May 22. The species has nested in southwestern Minnesota. In New England it is currently extending its breeding range southward. It would not be impossible for this Merganser to nest in the Ruthven Area—if available nesting trees could be found. The terrain, however, is really not typical for nesting of the species.

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TABLE OF COMPARISONS

Species	NUMBER SEEN			1934			MAIN FLIGHT			1934			TOTAL MIGRATION		
	1934	1938	1942	Bennett	Low	Provost	Bennett	Low	Provost	Bennett	Low	Provost	1938	Low	Provost
Whistling Swan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Apr. 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Apr. 6
Canada Goose	5,000	7,000	10,000	Apr. 17	Apr. 10	Apr. 15	Apr. 17	Apr. 10	Apr. 15	Mar. 19-May 5	Mar. 17-Apr. 26	Mar. 21-May 29	Mar. 19-May 5	Mar. 17-Apr. 26	Mar. 21-May 29
White-fronted Goose	200	300	4,000	Apr. 12	Mar. 26-Apr. 4	Mar. 21-Apr. 2	Apr. 12	Mar. 26-Apr. 4	Mar. 21-Apr. 2	Apr. 6-Apr. 30	Mar. 26-Apr. 29	Mar. 21-May 9	Apr. 6-Apr. 30	Mar. 26-Apr. 29	Mar. 21-May 9
Lesser Snow Goose	20,000	15,000	4,000	Apr. 16	Apr. 19	Mar. 21-Apr. 2	Apr. 16	Apr. 19	Mar. 21-Apr. 2	Mar. 19-May 2	Mar. 22-Apr. 30	Mar. 21-May 9	Mar. 19-May 2	Mar. 22-Apr. 30	Mar. 21-May 9
Blue Goose	30,000	50,000	20,000	Apr. 15	Mar. 31	Mar. 21-Apr. 2	Apr. 15	Mar. 31	Mar. 21-Apr. 2	Mar. 19-May 1	Mar. 22-May 27	Mar. 21-Apr. 28	Mar. 19-May 1	Mar. 22-May 27	Mar. 21-Apr. 28
Total Geese	55,200	72,300	38,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mallard	400,000	250,000	280,000	Mar. 20-May 15	Mar. 20-Apr. 15	Mar. 15-Apr. 16	Mar. 20-May 15	Mar. 20-Apr. 15	Mar. 15-Apr. 16	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 15-N
Black Duck	100	8,000	2,500	Apr. 19	Mar. 24	Apr. 2	Apr. 19	Mar. 24	Apr. 2	Mar. 20	.....	Mar. 27-May 19	Mar. 20	.....	Mar. 27-May 19
Gadwall	10,000	10,000	12,000	Apr. 19	Apr. 8	Mar. 29-Apr. 27	Apr. 19	Apr. 8	Mar. 29-Apr. 27	Apr. 4-Apr. 28	Mar. 24-Aug. 12	Mar. 27-May 19	Apr. 4-Apr. 28	Mar. 24-Aug. 12	Mar. 27-May 19
Baldpate	8,000	10,000	12,000	Mar. 20-May 15	Mar. 21-Apr. 20	Mar. 15-Apr. 4	Mar. 20-May 15	Mar. 21-Apr. 20	Mar. 15-Apr. 4	Apr. 2-Apr. 28	Mar. 24-June 4	Mar. 27-June 9	Apr. 2-Apr. 28	Mar. 24-June 4	Mar. 27-June 9
Pintail	1,000,000	500,000	460,000	Mar. 20-May 15	Mar. 21-Apr. 20	Mar. 15-Apr. 4	Mar. 20-May 15	Mar. 21-Apr. 20	Mar. 15-Apr. 4	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 15-June 9	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 15-June 9
Green-winged Teal	8,000	10,000	11,000	Apr. 14	Apr. 18	Mar. 26-Apr. 29	Apr. 14	Apr. 18	Mar. 26-Apr. 29	Mar. 20-Apr. 28	Mar. 26-May 28	Mar. 26-Apr. 29	Mar. 20-Apr. 28	Mar. 26-May 28	Mar. 26-Apr. 29
Blue-winged Teal	20,000	30,000	35,000	Apr. 25	Apr. 19	Apr. 27	Apr. 25	Apr. 19	Apr. 27	Apr. 7-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 27-N	Apr. 7-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 27-N
Shoveller	15,000	25,000	15,000	Apr. 13	Apr. 15	Apr. 5	Apr. 13	Apr. 15	Apr. 5	Mar. 23-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 28-N	Mar. 23-N	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 28-N
Wood Duck	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	May 24	.....	.....	May 24	.....	.....	May 15-June 3	.....	.....	May 15-June 3
Total Fuddle Ducks	1,431,000	833,000	815,650	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Redhead	1,000	3,500	4,500	Apr. 8	Mar. 24-Apr. 18	Mar. 30-Apr. 12	Apr. 8	Mar. 24-Apr. 18	Mar. 30-Apr. 12	Mar. 20-N	Mar. 22-N	Mar. 27-N	Mar. 20-N	Mar. 22-N	Mar. 27-N
Ring-necked Duck	8,000	10,000	8,500	Apr. 12	Mar. 28-Apr. 1	Mar. 21-Apr. 11	Apr. 12	Mar. 28-Apr. 1	Mar. 21-Apr. 11	Mar. 20-May 1	Mar. 23-May 12	Mar. 21-May 20	Mar. 20-May 1	Mar. 23-May 12	Mar. 21-May 20
Canvasback	300	500	12,000	Apr. 9	Apr. 18	Apr. 2	Apr. 9	Apr. 18	Apr. 2	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 22-N	Mar. 29-N	Mar. 15-N	Mar. 22-N	Mar. 29-N
Lesser Scaup Duck	20,000	40,000	230,000	Apr. 13-Apr. 17	Apr. 6-Apr. 12	Mar. 17-Apr. 11	Apr. 13-Apr. 17	Apr. 6-Apr. 12	Mar. 17-Apr. 11	Mar. 15-Apr. 25	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 15-June 9	Mar. 15-Apr. 25	Mar. 21-N	Mar. 15-June 9
American Golden-eye	300	30	300	Mar. 31	Apr. 3	Mar. 30	Mar. 31	Apr. 3	Mar. 30	Mar. 19-Apr. 13	Apr. 3-Apr. 13	Mar. 15-May 7	Mar. 19-Apr. 13	Apr. 3-Apr. 13	Mar. 15-May 7
Bufflehead	50	200	250	Apr. 13	Apr. 1	Mar. 27-Apr. 20	Apr. 13	Apr. 1	Mar. 27-Apr. 20	Apr. 9-Apr. 13	Mar. 23-May 9	Mar. 27-Apr. 20	Apr. 9-Apr. 13	Mar. 23-May 9	Mar. 27-Apr. 20
Ruddy Duck	500	1,000	300	Apr. 18	Apr. 29	Apr. 4	Apr. 18	Apr. 29	Apr. 4	Apr. 14-N	Apr. 2-N	Mar. 30-N	Apr. 14-N	Apr. 2-N	Mar. 30-N
Total Diving Ducks	30,150	55,230	255,850	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hooded Merganser	40	35	50	.....	May 10	Apr. 5-Apr. 16	.....	May 10	Apr. 5-Apr. 16	Apr. 10	Apr. 3	Apr. 5-Apr. 16	Apr. 10	Apr. 3	Apr. 5-Apr. 16
American Merganser	100	.....	200	Apr. 10	.....	Apr. 15	Apr. 10	.....	Apr. 15	Mar. 18-Apr. 20	.....	Mar. 27-May 22	Mar. 18-Apr. 20	.....	Mar. 27-May 22
Red-breasted Merganser	60	70	100	.....	Apr. 11	May 5	.....	Apr. 11	May 5	Mar. 15	Apr. 11-Apr. 20	May 2-May 17	Mar. 15	Apr. 11-Apr. 20	May 2-May 17
Total Fish Ducks	200	105	350	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Waterfowl	1,546,650	970,635	1,109,860	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

N = Nesting

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BIRDS

By MRS. W. C. DE LONG

CLARION, IOWA

(With drawings by E. W. Steffen)

It is September 29, 1945. I am sitting on a bench in the Clarion Evergreen Cemetery. The trees are full of migrating birds. Last night we had a hard freeze in northern Iowa, turning the flowers to a dark brown.

The sun is shining this afternoon, but it is not very warm, sitting here on this bench. I am all alone in the cemetery except for my many feathered friends. I am watching a little Red-breasted Nuthatch in an elm tree. He was in an evergreen tree a few minutes ago, but he seems to be finding more food in this elm tree now. He spends most of his time crawling on the underside of the small branches of this tree. I discovered him by his call note which is higher pitched than the more common song of his relative, the White-breasted Nuthatch. He does not seem to care that I am watching him. He is very indifferent toward me. Not once has he stopped to look at me.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are here in great numbers this afternoon. Every tree in the cemetery is full of them. They do not stay in the same tree, but dash from one tree to another so that there is a constant exchange of birds coming and going. They are friendly little fellows. One little kinglet comes so close to me I can almost reach out and touch him. His eyes, surrounded by a conspicuous white eye-ring, peer at me with much curiosity. No doubt where he has spent the summer, 'way up in Canada, building his nest high up in the top of a forty-foot spruce tree, he has seen very few human beings. He quickly opens and closes his wings as he flits from twig to twig. I wish he would sing for me and show the pretty little red feathers on the top of his head as he does in the spring.

"Royal little acrobat

The Kinglets come to town

But love or war must urge him on

Before he'll show his crown."

Other years I have heard him sing in the fall, but he is too busy searching for food this afternoon.

The stormy weather last night forced many migrating birds down today. Two Brown Creepers are going spirally up the trunk of an evergreen tree. They seem to be in each other's way, for one has left and is now at the base of the elm tree. Around and around he goes up the tree until he is now feeding near the Red-breasted Nuthatch. They seem to be friends.

What is that I hear over yonder? My binoculars tell me it is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. He



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

is a young one. There is no red on his head, but the white on his wing tells me who he is. He never does want me to see him. I wish he were as indifferent as this little Red-breasted Nuthatch in the elm tree.

A train going by has sent many birds to the trees around me. Golden-crowned Kinglets with flame-orange crowns are tipping their heads. Their twitter has a different sound than the Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

I hear another "Tchip", a loud, almost sparrow-like chirp. I wonder if it can be—yes, it is the Myrtle Warbler. His tail just flashed and I saw the yellow on his rump. I saw six of them very early this spring on April 10.

Goldfinches are sailing through the air in a deeply undulating flight. They had been feeding in a weed patch along the railroad track but the train going by sent them into the trees around me. They are dressed in their winter suits, olive brown with black wings but no black caps. My watch

tells me it is 3:30 p.m. and I must be getting back to town. But what is that, that whizzed past me in a drove just now. Can it be the Cedar Waxwings I was hoping to find when I first came out here? The cedar trees are hanging with blue berries, and a European buckthorn is laden with blue fruit. When I first came out here this afternoon, the Robins were eating the fruit of the buckthorn tree.



YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

My binoculars tell me this tree is now full of waxwings. They are stuffing themselves with the berries. I am trying to count them. There go eight over to the elm tree where the Red-breasted Nuthatch is. Now, six more have dashed to the elm tree, but just as many wheel suddenly and plunge swiftly to the buckthorn tree. I can not count them with such confusion. They are beautiful with their conspicuous crest, smooth, silky, reddish-brown plumage and yellow-tipped tails with little red wax tips on the middle wing feathers. There are young ones among them, for I see streaked breasts. I hear a faint lisping note coming from both the elm tree and the buck-

thorn tree. Birds with beautiful plumage are rarely good singers. This is certainly true of the waxwings, for their vocal capacities are limited to these faint notes I hear coming from both trees. Again I try to count them—20, 25, 29, 30, 34.

My watch! I didn't realize so much time had elapsed watching these waxwings. How I hate to leave them and the little Red-breasted Nuthatch! He is still searching for food in the elm tree.

At noon today, while eating lunch we saw outside the kitchen window a bird not much larger than a sparrow, daintily walking on the sidewalk. He did not hop as most birds do, but walked on pretty pink feet, bobbing his tail during frequent pauses. Just as he got to the lilac bush, he turned

and tipped his head, revealing a striped golden crown, and it was then I knew an Oven-bird had stopped to feed in my yard on the way south for the winter.

It is September 30 now. I am sitting here at the table writing my thoughts of yesterday. In the spruce tree outside my window sits a Hermit Thrush. He is on the lowest branch, looking at the ground. Now, he is on the ground trying to get an insect from the many brown leaves that have fallen. He is bobbing his tail much like the Oven-bird we saw yesterday. But his tail is red, and he has no striped crown on his head. He, too, has stopped on his way south for the winter.

It is October 21, 1945, three weeks later. I am sitting on the same bench in the Clarion cemetery. The birds that are here are not the same as were here three weeks ago. In place of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, the evergreen trees are full of Juncos, moving from one tree to another flashing their two outer white tail feathers, and uttering a rapidly reiterated chirp that is so characteristic of them.

In the southeast corner of the cemetery over by the railroad track, there are many tall weeds. A row of box-elder trees border the east side with a large tree in the corner. At the base of the tree there is a large pile of rocks with weeds growing up between them. Many tall weeds border the south side along the track. From a pile of brush nearby can be heard a slow, constant whistle, "Whee-whee-whee". Upon investigation two large, red-billed Harris Sparrows hop up into the corner tree from the brush. One is a black-hooded adult, the other a rusty-colored immature bird with a mottled breast.



CEDAR WAXWING



WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

A deep chuck note, much like the harsh call note of the Brown Thrasher, comes from the weed patch and soon a Fox Sparrow hops up into the tree beside the Harris Sparrows. Of all the sparrows that can be seen in Iowa, the Fox Sparrow, I think, is the most beautiful, and no other sparrow I have ever heard sing can quite equal his musical ability. I have heard him sing in the fall, but it is abbreviated and not as full or clear.

There are many Song Sparrows in the weed patch and they are singing. Their voices are pitched low and very unlike the full, strong singing one hears in the summer. Many of them hop up into a maple tree which is in the center of the weed patch. One individual reaches up between snatches of his song and catches a worm dangling down from a branch above him.

Four Lincoln's Sparrows hop up from the pile of stones into the tree where a few minutes ago were the Harris and Fox Sparrows. I can see the buffy band across their breasts. They are not shy at all, but look at me a long time before darting back to the rocks.

A White-throated Sparrow makes his presence known by scratching away some leaves at the base of a tree. On October 2, I was awakened early one morning by one of these White-throats just outside my window singing his "Old Sam Peabody" song. I had never before heard one sing in the fall.

In another week most of these birds will be gone. A few Juncos will remain and Tree Sparrows from the far north will join them to spend the winter in this weed patch. No matter how cold or gray the day may be, Juncos and Tree Sparrows will be there in cheery, twittering flocks. Our winter landscape would be dreary and lonesome without them.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL IOWA SPRING BIRD COUNT

Compiled by MYRLE and MARGARET JONES

The fourth annual Iowa spring bird count was taken at 17 stations on May 11 and 12, 1946. The results are given in the following Table.

Thirty-five parties consisting of 114 observers traveled, collectively, 936 miles by auto and 280 miles on foot, finding 200 species of birds, the individual birds numbering 30,994.

A number of unusual, uncommon and even rare birds are reported. Since the scientific accuracy of such records rests with the observers, their names are indicated where known.

We regret that it was necessary to omit one list from this compilation as it bore no name or locality data.

A description of the stations and the names of the observers follow.

1. AMES. Story Co. City yards and streets, oak-hickory Pammel Woods of Iowa State College, adjacent wooded pastures and open fields in forenoon; Goose and Little Wall Lakes, Hamilton Co., and roadsides on way to lakes in afternoon. May 11; 6 to 11 a.m., 3 to 7 p.m. Clear; wind 10 m.p.h., shifted from north to south. Mr. and Mrs. George O. Hendrickson, Mrs. Thomas G. Scott, James R. Henry, Bernard F. Wievel.

2. AMES. Story Co. Iowa State College Campus, along railway and adjacent woods to Agronomy Farm, woods and fields to Horticultural Farm, Brookside Park, and northwest woods to Pammel Woods and golf course; mature deciduous woods 50%, open farmland and fields 25% campus, etc. 25%. May 12; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear to cloudy; light northwest wind. Wilfred Goodman.

3. ATLANTIC. Cass Co. Nishnabotna River and Indian Creek bottoms and timbers. Cold Springs State Park and Lamb's Lake and sloughs. (10%.

ponds and sloughs; 50% wooded areas; and 40% open fields and roadside thickets.) May 12; 5 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Clear after several previous days of cold, cloudy and rainy weather; no wind. Miriam Goddard, Alma Beckwith, Mrs. D. C. Bice, Mrs. Catharine Farquhar, Grace Barnard, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Emigh, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Berry, Glenn O. Jones, Glenn Owen Jones, Bob Mallette, Gene Ruhr.

4. CEDAR FALLS. Blackhawk Co. Goose Lake, Cedar River (Washington-Union Bridge, Josh Higgins Park, Casebeer Heights), Bruhnsville, and Golinvaux Slough. Ponds, marshes, river-banks, swamps, forests, prairies, and farm-lands. May 12. 5 a.m. to 12:30, 1 to 6:30 p.m. Cloudy to clear; wind NW, 10 m.p.h. Mrs. John M. Barlow and Martin L. Grant, leaders; J. M. Barlow, Frances Crouter, Eleanor Eifert, G. O. Faulkner, Gordon Grant, Jean Grant, Russell Hays, Mrs. Russell Rugg.

5. CEDAR RAPIDS. Linn Co. Cedar Lake, Mound Farm Woods, Stone quarry, Ellis Park, Chain Lakes, Prairie Creek Woods, Amana Lake, Swan Lake, and along Cedar River. Lakes, marshes, wooded upland, wooded lowland, fields and roadsides intervening. May 12; 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Partly cloudy; chill north wind early, calming later. Don Boyd, C. Esther Copp, Lavina Dragoo, Verona Hayette, Dorothy Jensen, Rosanne Klass, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Laude, Lucille Olinger, Renati Rothschild, Lillian Serbousek, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Steffen, Dr. Robert Vane, Myra Willis, Leone Wyckoff.

6. CLARION. Wright Co. In town, walk down railroad track to Clarion Cemetery, down White Fox Creek. May 11; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clear; cold. (Cold rain the day before). Mrs. W. C. De Long.

7. DES MOINES. Polk Co. Dove Woods, Brenton's Slough, Walnut Woods State Park, Lower Towner Lake, Waukonsa, Charles Sing Denman Woods, sanctuary. May 11; 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Clear; light wind. E. Estella Reynolds, Mrs. Toni R. Wendelburg, Mrs. G. Kraetch, Irene M. Smith, Mrs. Gladys Haskell, Mrs. Ruth Binsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berkowitz, Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain, Mr. Woodward Brown, Mrs. Harold R. Peasley.

8. DEWITT. Clinton Co. Along a stream through moderately heavy timber. May 11; 6 a.m. to 12 noon. Clear and cool, clouding up about 10 o'clock. Arlen Peahl, David Luckstead, Emmett Holst.

9. DUBUQUE. Dubuque Co. Marshes north of Dubuque, Linwood Cemetery, woods near Durango. May 12; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy, clearing by noon; wind, 20 m.p.h. to calm by noon. E. A. Heuser, George Crossley, Mr. Crossley, Sr., Mrs. R. Ruegnitz, Frieda Blaufus, Henry Herrmann, Ival Schuster, Mary Young, Jim Dockal.

10. MT. PLEASANT. Henry Co. Mt. Pleasant, Saunder's Grove, Oakland Mills State Park, small pond and marsh on Skunk River. May 12; 6 a.m. to 12 noon, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Clear; moderate NW wind. Roy Ollivier, Joe Schaffner, Joe Morgan.

11. MT. VERNON. Linn Co. Old golf course north of Mt. Vernon, along Cedar River at Ivanhoe, Palisades State Park. May 12; 6 hours in the field. David Ennis, J. Harold Ennis.

12. NEW ALBIN. Allamakee Co. Open pasture land, woodlands along the Upper Iowa River, and a slough back of New Albin. May 11. Clear; light SE wind. F. H. Franzmier, Richard Franzmier, Charles Stewart.

13. OTTUMWA. Wapello Co. Community Gardens, Schaub's Woods and vicinity, Blackhawk Road, Cliffland, Lake Wapello. May 12; 4:30 a.m. to 12 noon, 2:30 to 7 p.m. Clear. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Pearle C. Walker, Marietta Eighme, Mary Wood, Marilyn Watterson, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Watterson.

(Continued on page 57)

B. List of Species	Total		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	No.	Stat. Ind.																	
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	1	1				1													
Hawk, Cooper's	2	2																	
Hawk, Red-tailed	12	21	1	1	1	1	3		4			2	1	2	1	3			1
Hawk, Red-shouldered	5	12	1			3	5	12	2					1					
Hawk, Broad-winged	2	5				2	3												
Hawk, Marsh	8	18	1			1	1		1		2				1	10			1
Osprey	1	1						1											
Falcon, Prairie	1	1															1		
Hawk, Duck	2	2				1			1										
Hawk, E. Sparrow	9	27			4	1	5		5			1			2	7		1	
Bob-white, Eastern	11	48		6	1	7	13		8	1		5	1	2	2				
Pheasant, Ring-necked	2	213	34	4	7	5	12	3	1				2			24	20	100	
Rail, King	3	3							1										
Rail, Virginia	3	14	2			5	12		2										3
Rail, Sora	9	71	10		8	20	17		5			4							3
Gallinule, Florida	2	8	7			1													
Coot, American	11	1399	500		8	150	26		24			3			10	128	300	100	150
Plover, Semipalmated	7	182				6			3		8				7	7	35	48	
Killdeer	16	97	1	1	2	10	5	2	16	3	8	4		3	6	9	10	15	2
Plover, Black-bellied	1	2																	2
Plover, Turnstone, Ruddy	1	1	1																
Snipe, Wilson's	5	19	2			12	1					2						3	1
Plover, Upland	2	3																	
Plover, Spotted	12	63		1	21	4	4		9		7	3		1	4	6	2	1	
Sandpiper, E. Solitary	10	71			8	4	6		15		3	4		15	8	5			3
Willet, Western	2	3				2													
Yellow-legs, Greater	8	87			40	25			8			1			3	7	2	1	
Yellow-legs, Lesser	13	457	15	2	20	75	24		38					1	6	40	100	100	35
Sandpiper, Pectoral	10	230	3		24	35	2		12						4	10	50	60	30
Sandpiper, White-rumped	4	8													1	4			
Sandpiper, Baird's	2	4																	
Sandpiper, Least	9	139	4			4	13		18	2					3	45	25	25	
Sandpiper, Red-backed	4	58							7		6						20	25	
Dowitcher	6	84	4		6	30					9						15	20	
Sandpiper, Stilt	1	1																	
Sandpiper, Semi-palmated	9	142			6	12			2		9				2	11	10	50	40
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted	1	1																	
Godwit, Marbled	1	2																	
Godwit, Hudsonian	2	10			4													2	
Sanderling	1	1																	
Phalarope, Wilson's	8	110	3		35			2			8	2			1	11	6	50	1
Gull, Herring	1	1																	
Gull, Ring-billed	3	7																	
Gull, Franklin's	3	762																	
Tern, Forster's	6	70																	
Tern, Common	3	8				1	4		4		6						10	50	1

B. List of Species	Total																		
	No.	Stat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tern, Black	12	1361	50		20	25	35		512		20	2			10	1	500	50	36
Dove, Mourning	17	803	50		75	50	46	9	83	17	2	29	17	12	35	161	100	50	16
Owl, E. Screech	1	2			2														
Owl, Great Horned	2	2			1	1													
Owl, N. Barred	4	8			2	2	4		1						1				4
Whip-poor-will, E.	3	7																	
Nighthawk, Eastern	3	5									3		1		1				
Swift, Chimney	15	525	25	96	31	30	40	24	27		50	12	9	75	30	19	50		7
Hummingbird, Ruby-thr.	4	4			1	1													
Kingfisher, E. Belted	12	35	1	1	5	4	2		2		1			2	1	3	10	3	1
Flicker, Northern	17	193	7	14	25	15	30	4	16	7	4	7	1	10	7	31	6	8	1
Woodpecker, Pileated	1	1																	
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	11	26	1	2	3	2	3		3						5	1			1
Woodpecker, Red-headed	17	380	12	8	60	25	65	4	57	8	2	13	11	15	15	52	1	4	28
Woodpecker, E. Hairy	13	37		2	4	2	3	1	7	1	2			9	1	2	9	1	2
Woodpecker, N. Downy	14	97	1	9	8	10	15		17	2	6	4	1	8	11	2			3
Kingbird, Eastern	14	119	3		27	6	5	1	10		1	5		25	12	17	1	3	3
Kingbird, Arkansas	1	5																	
Flycatcher, N. Crested	13	50	1	1	18	4	3		3	2	4	3		1	5	2			3
Phoebe, Eastern	13	104	1	1	25	5	7		13	3	6	5		8	6	6			18
Flycatcher, Acadian	1	1																	
Flycatcher, Alder	5	12							2		2								
Flycatcher, Least	10	54	3	11	9	6	9	6	5										
Pewee, E. Wood	9	18	1	2	2		3	1	3	1	1					1		1	
Flycatcher, Olive-sided	1	1																	
Lark, Prairie Horned	8	51	1	5	30	4	6		1										
Swallow, Tree	11	537			16	20	7		308		100	7			5	18	10	6	40
Swallow, Bank	14	547	4		3	20	51		86	17	20	15		12	6	12	200	50	50
Swallow, Rough-winged	13	535	15	3	20	15	34		117		20			12	125	10	34	50	80
Swallow, Barn	16	306	3	4	20	9	23	3	34		25	3	2	20	8	52	10	20	70
Swallow, N. Cliff	5	58			1														50
Martin, Purple	15	338	20	11	45	8	12	10	83			26	4	50	12	19	25	10	3
Jay, N. Blue	17	372	15	18	60	30	34	9	26	12	12	7	2	10	8	86	10	8	25
Crow, Eastern	17	334	4	14	40	50	36	7	34	7	5	3	14	26	6	45	16	20	16
Chickadee, Bk. capped	16	309	15	10	35	10	30		29	5	12	10	5	4	20	109	5		8
Titmouse, Tufted	13	56	2	2	5	8	4		13	1	7	3	1	2	6				2
Nuthatch, White-br.	15	76	2	2	15	3	11		6	2	13	1	2	2	1	11	1		4
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	1	1																	
Creeper, Brown	1	1																	
Wren, W. House	17	351	20	26	75	12	28	16	43	17	15	7	2	12	15	53	4	2	4
Wren, E. Winter	1	1																	
Wren, Bewick's	2	6							2		4								
Wren, Prairie Marsh	6	28			3	15	4		4							1		1	
Wren, Short-b'd. Marsh	7	15	4		2	3	2	1							2				
Mockingbird, E.	1	1			1														
Catbird	15	264	10	16	19	12	68	2	28	10	35	9	5	29	11	8			2

B. List of Species	Total																		
	No.	Stat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Thrasher, Brown	17	388	10	16	55	20	35	10	42	20	17	5	4	17	21	77	25	8	6
Robin, Eastern	17	1021	30	97	100	10	95	15	98	37	36	47	19	84	31	175	50	25	12
Thrush, Wood	8	23			3	1	2				1	2		2	4	8			
Thrush, E. Hermit	1	2																	
Thrush, Olive-backed	14	174	1	8	75	23	8	10	4		6			1	1	22	10	1	2
Thrush, Gray-backed	11	92	1	3	8	12	8	28					2	1	1	18	10	1	1
Thrush, Willow	8	86	1	2	1	1	1	2					1	1	1	77			1
Bluebird, E.	16	233	8	4	30	30	27		41	6	4	4	6	27	16	3	4	1	22
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	6	12			5	1	2		1				2						1
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	10	48	1	3	4	7	14	11			3	1	1		3				1
Pipit, American	1	3				3													1
Waxwing, Cedar	2	9					3								6				1
Shrike, Migrant	10	26	1		4	3	3		5			1	3		2				3
Starling	17	845	30	4	50	50	250	2	182	7	6	17	25	10	37	95	10	50	40
Vireo, White-eyed	1	1													1				1
Vireo, Bell's	2	2	1												2				1
Vireo, Yellow-throated	5	10				2			2		3				1				1
Vireo, Blue-headed	6	13			1	4	3	2			2								3
Vireo, Red-eyed	6	15			6	1	3				1				1				1
Vireo, Philadelphia	3	8	1		4	1										3			1
Vireo, Warbling	13	63	1	5	7	1	13	1	8		6	9		3	3	5			1
Warbler, Black and White	8	31	1		9	5	2	7	3		3				1				
Warbler, Golden-winged	3	5	2				2				1								
Warbler, Blue-winged	2	33					13				20								
Warbler, Tennessee	8	32		8	4	4		1	1		10				3	1			
Warbler, Orange-cr.	7	16	2				2	3											
Warbler, Nashville	11	31	6	3	2	5	6	2	1				2	1	1	1			1
Warbler, E. Yellow	13	181	2	10	20		49	2	41		12	2			19	15	6	1	2
Warbler, Macnolia	3	6			3	1	1	2											
Warbler, Black-th. Blue	1	1									1								
Warbler, Myrtle	16	268	16	13	30	35	31	26	11	16	4	1	14	15	5	35	10		6
Warbler, Black-thr. Green	4	7	1				3	1			2								1
Warbler, Cerulean	1	2																	
Warbler, Black-poll	6	14		3	1	6	1	2								1			
Warbler, N. Pine	1	1																	
Warbler, W. Palm	9	165			1	50	9	34	2		3	1		63	2				
Ovenbird	9	51	1	1	12	7	11		6		8				4				1
Water-thrush, Grinnell's	7	29	3		3	12	5							2		3			
Water-thrush, Ia.	10	39	1	7	11	7	3	6	3		2			18	1				5
Warbler, Kentucky	1	5																	
Yellowthroat, N.	14	121	3	3	34	6	18	6	12	3	6	6		8	11	3			2
Chat, Yellow-breasted	1	1																	1
Warbler, Wilson's	4	8		1	2	3		2											
Redstart, American	11	75			1	3	13		4	10	27			1	8				4
Sparrow, English	16	1653	25	166	100	75	275	29	316		9	35	52	75	60	308	10	20	100
Bobolink	8	98		3	18	4	9		30				2						30

14. SIOUX CITY. Woodbury Co. Brower's Lake, Brown's Lake, Logan Park Cemetery, Memorial Park Cemetery, Dr. Clyde R. Griffen's "woods", War Eagle Park, South Ravine, Stone Park, Plum Creek area, New Lake, railroad slough 5 miles from Sergeant Bluff, residential district on west side. May 12; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Partially overcast in morning from 9 to 11, remainder of day clear and bright; NW wind, 20-25 m.p.h. Edna Brower, Don Bushar, Brice Clayton, Ralph Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hissong, Jean L. Laffoon, Karl Kuhlmann, Zell C. Lee, H. T. Lambert, Mary Lambert, Adaline T. Lambert, H. B. Lloyd, Monte B. Lloyd, Elliott Lloyd, Nick Margeas, Dr. J. L. Schott, Julia Schott, Ruth Sampson, W. W. Trusell, Carl Wellhausen.

Credit for identification as follows: Philadelphia Vireo and Prairie Falcon, Wellhausen; Brewer's Blackbird, Brower and Sampson; Tree Sparrow, W. W. Trusell.

15. SPIRIT LAKE. Dickinson Co. Drove around Spirit Lake and West Okoboji, walked around home and in woods west of Little Spirit Lake. May 12; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 4 p.m., 5:30 to 7 p.m. Clear; strong wind. Frank and Mary Roberts.

16. SPIRIT LAKE. Dickinson Co. and Cheever lake in Emmet Co. May 12. Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Musgrove, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard F. Reece.

17. WAUBONSIE STATE PARK. Fremont Co. Waubonsie St. Pk. and vicinity, Hamburg to Riverton, Thurman to Forney Slough, Sidney and return. May 11; 6 a.m. to 12 noon, 1 to 8 p.m. Clear; unseasonably cold; ice on ponds and puddles; wind slight. Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones, Lynn Johnson.

GENERAL NOTES

American Egrets in Clinton County.—On the afternoon of September 4, 1946, David Luckstead, Mr. Yeaton and I saw two American Egrets on the Wapsie bottoms near Folletts. They were perched in some dead trees on the bank of a small pond. We watched them for nearly an hour and used binoculars part of the time. The white plumage, yellow bill, black legs and feet and other details were carefully noted.—ARLEN W. PEAHL, DeWitt, Iowa.

Mockingbirds in Black Hawk County.—On February 23, 1946, while coming home from a shopping trip in downtown Cedar Falls, I suddenly became aware of the song of a Mockingbird. I went out of my way to try to locate it, but ran into competition with the noise of several trucks and failed to find it. On April 14, however, I saw a Mockingbird, along the old river bed back of the Canfield Airport, and I watched it for a full 15 minutes. Having lived in Tennessee for a year and a half, with Mockingbirds as constant neighbors, I'm positive about the song identification in February.—JOHN BLIESE, Waterloo, Iowa.

Mockingbirds at Estherville.—A pair of Mockingbirds were seen at various times around the home of Charles Bixby in Estherville, during the latter part of June and early July, 1946. I did not see or hear the birds, although I went there several times during early morning hours. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bixby have travelled in the South and have seen and heard the Mockingbirds there. They are familiar with both their appearance and their song, so there can be no reason to doubt the correctness of their identification. Besides hearing the song, they had opportunity to observe the birds at close range. Mr. Bixby stated that they were tamer than the Brown Thrashers that were about the place.—B. O. WOLDEN, Estherville, Iowa.

American Egrets in Black Hawk County.—For several days during the third week in August, 1946, a flock of 14 American Egrets fed along the old river bed of the Cedar about three miles east of Cedar Falls. At that time it was a slough of stagnant water. One morning my husband and I, with Mrs. A. R. Habenicht as a guide, drove down through the swamp pasture and observed the flock with field glasses at a distance of 40 yards. The Habenichts live on this farm and she was able to tell us where to drive to keep on solid ground. It was necessary to stay in the car as the birds would take wing at the sight of a person walking. The three of us observed them for some time as they fed in the shallow, stagnant water. The snowy plumage, yellow bill, black legs and feet were very conspicuous.—MRS. RAY S. DIX, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Meeting of the Wilson Club at Omaha.—The annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Omaha, November 28 to 30. Details of the program are not available at the time this item is written, but the meeting will doubtless be up to the high standard of previous meetings of this national organization. Iowa bird students who attend will have the opportunity to meet our neighbors in the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the members of the Wilson Club.

LOCAL BIRD CLUBS IN IOWA

DES MOINES.—The Des Moines Audubon Society opened its 1945-1946 season at the Birdland shelter house on September 25, 1945, with a basket supper, and closed its active season as a group, on May 29, 1946, at the Airport shelter house.

A new experiment has proved very enjoyable and instructive for various members of the Society. The insect study group instructor, Mrs. Jean Gessell, and the plant study group instructor, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, spent much of their time preparing material to make these two study groups so interesting. The Society sponsored the national wildlife screen tour series for a third successful season; these have been so well received that the Society will sponsor the series for a fourth season. The Christmas party, a 6:30 p.m. dinner, was very well attended. As there was a screen tour lecture for the same date, the speaker for the evening, Mrs. Laurel Reynolds, was a dinner guest of the Society. After the dinner, the group met in the Drake auditorium for the lecture, "Fun with Birds".

The November meeting was held in the Drake lounge. The Society had as its speaker Mr. Charles Ayres, of the Ottumwa Bird Club, whose subject was "Birds of Colorado". The March meeting was held at the State Historical Building; Jack Musgrove, museum director, was the speaker for the evening. His subject was "A Trip Through Canadian Wilds". The April meeting was held in the University Church dining room. Mr. Myrle Jones, custodian of Ledges State Park, showed kodachrome slides he had taken of state parks in Iowa and Nebraska. A highlight of the season was the trip to Ledges State Park on April 28. Mr. and Mrs. Myrle Jones were charming hosts to 51 members of the Society.

The Des Moines Audubon Society has increased its membership to 261. Its committees and officers have worked hard to make the 1945-1946 program an interesting one. Officers for the year 1946-47 are: Miss Irene M. Smith, president; Mrs. E. C. Gessell, vice-president; Mrs. Lester W. Haskell, secretary; Miss Ruth Leupold, treasurer; Mabel Goshorn Tate, editor of 'The Warbler', assisted by Mrs. Jack Musgrove and a special staff.—Above report taken from July-August issue of 'The Warbler'.

INDEPENDENCE.—From a group of teachers, Girl Scout leaders and other bird lovers, who met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Johnson in March, 1945, the Independence Bird Club was organized, with an enrollment of 15. Besides regular monthly meetings, several field trips were made, though the spring was unusually cold and unfavorable. In October, the Club sponsored a lecture and moving picture, "Music of the Out-of-doors," by Mr. Bert Harwell, which was very well attended by the public. At our November meeting, Fred J. Pierce told us where to look for the birds of Buchanan County, and we knew he spoke from experience of many years. On January 27, a group of our members went to Cedar Falls to see the exhibit of paintings of the late Althea R. Sherman.—MRS. R. W. JOHNSON.

RECENT BIRD BOOKS

MODERN BIRD STUDY, by Ludlow Griscom (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1945; cloth, 12mo, pp. i-x plus 1-190, with 15 pls. & 10 maps; price, \$2.50).

This little volume is unusual in that it is written in a way to interest both the amateur ornithologist and the technical. The first five chapters, while addressed mostly to the layman, are not devoid of interest for the more experienced observer; the rest of the book, written in more technical language, is not over the head of the intelligent amateur. The first part of the book gives a brief account of the development of field ornithology, discusses the intelligence and adaptability of birds, and presents some of the theories advanced to explain the migration of birds, together with outlines of routes followed, and factors influencing migratory movements. The next four chapters discuss the distribution of birds, both general and specific as related to the American continents, while the closing chapter deals with classification, and nomenclature. Illustrations are from photographs, and there are a number of maps showing migration routes. As a general work on field ornithology, this book should be a valuable addition to the library of any person concerned with wildlife.—Chas. J. Spiker.

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FIELD BOOK OF EASTERN BIRDS, by Leon Augustus Hausman (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1946; cloth, 16mo, pp. i-xvi plus 1-659, with 6 colored pls. & over 400 drawings by Jacob Bates Abbott; price, \$3.75).

The reviewer's first bird book was one of his own making when he began bird study at about 14 years of age. It was a scrapbook of clippings and such bird pictures (mostly uncolored) as he could find in the farm papers. After a time he was given a very wonderful book, the Reed Guide of land birds, with a colored picture and description of one species of bird on every page. It was a milepost in his life. He carried it on every bird trip and the little volume was literally worn out with constant use. It was revered and it was indispensable. Those little colored bird pictures are permanently etched on his memory while others of greater beauty and fidelity have faded or are forgotten. The reviewer has always wondered why the makers of modern bird guides have not followed Reed's original and very satisfactory plan of a colored bird on every page, put up in a size to slip into any pocket. With all its imperfections, the Reed Guide was unique and had a great deal to commend it. Thousands of bird students of other days began their work under its guidance.

The new Hausman book is another bird guide—a large pocket-size book to the thickness of nearly 700 pages, crammed with field keys and informa-

tion on the common names, field marks, field description, habits, song, habitat and range of every species of bird in eastern North America. Yet it lacks the fundamental thing that means so much to a beginner—a colored picture of every bird. It is hard for the reviewer to think himself back 30 years into the psychology of a beginner; but he believes if the Hausman book had been available then, he would have been bewildered by the mass of printed matter and would have turned to Reed to identify his birds in the field.

In the Hausman guide there is a bird on nearly every page, in the form of a small line drawing. Most of the drawings are very well done and show the species in a characteristic pose, but we believe it would be impossible for a beginner to identify any except the very strikingly marked birds from these small black and white figures. There is little to aid him in determining the proportion of size. It is not the fault of the artist or author that the Ruby-throated Hummingbird looks larger than the Flicker, since most of the drawings are allotted the same size of space. The colored plates, while very attractive and useful as far as they go, are all too few and show overcrowding; for example, the Red-breasted Nuthatch and the Oyster-catcher share the same plate. If the 400 small drawings could have been in colors, Dr. Hausman would have had a field guide of the first rank.

Despite the great amount of printed information which the book contains, and the equally great amount of work which the author obviously expended upon it, we wonder if it will really fill a need. It would seem to be inadequate for the use of a beginner. And the advanced bird student will probably find it superfluous, as he will already have had access to similar material in other books.—F. J. P.

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The Sioux City Bird Club and the Des Moines Audubon Society continue to issue, respectively, 'The Dickcissel' and 'The Warbler', both mimeographed publications. 'The Dickcissel' is now in its seventh volume and 'The Warbler' in its third. These bulletins are issued at regular intervals and contain much material of interest to club members. There are news notes about the activities of members, information as to dates and subjects of the Audubon screen tours, reviews of new books, outlines of bird trips, lists of birds seen, and many other topics of timely interest. Quite frequently important bird records and notes on habits are "published" in these mimeographed journals. We believe that such records ought to be submitted for publication in 'Iowa Bird Life' also, so that they will have future reference value. Experience has shown that mimeographed leaflets do not possess permanence as so few copies survive the passing of the years. A good example of this is the series of mimeographed 'Bulletins' of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (1923-1928) of which only three complete sets are known to exist (and these are in private hands).

The Editor's summer existence is always enlivened by his visitors. During the past summer and early fall he had the pleasure of visits from a number of Iowa Ornithologists' Union members. President Charles Ayres spent a week-end at Winthrop; there were bird trips to various places, Mr. Ayres showed his colored films to a small audience in the Editor's home, and it was an enjoyable week-end in all respects. Other visitors included: Dr. and Mrs. Ivan Boyd, Rev. M. C. Melcher, George Grove, Arthur J. Palas, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Dr. and Mrs. George Hendrickson, Chas. J. Spiker, Miss Mary Young, Dr. Paul Errington, Dr. Thos. Scott.